

## **National Organic Program Cloning and Organic Livestock Production**

Recently, FDA announced its approval of a draft risk assessment of cloning as a production technique in agriculture. Since that announcement, many questions have been raised about cloning and animals produced using cloning technology (called clones) respecting organic production and their allowance under the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations. The following questions and answers explain the position of the NOP regarding cloning and animals produced using cloning technology for organic livestock production.

Q. Is cloning as a livestock production practice allowed under the NOP regulations?

A. No. Cloning as a production method is incompatible with the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) and is prohibited under the NOP regulations.

Q. May animals produced using cloning technology, or clones, be considered organic under the NOP regulations?

A. No. Animals produced using cloning technology are incompatible with OFPA and cannot be considered organic under the NOP regulations.

Q. What about the progeny of animals produced using cloning technology, or clones – can they be organic under the NOP regulations in organic livestock production?

A. AMS intends to work with the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to develop a rulemaking proposal to determine the organic status of the progeny of animals derived using cloning technology, or clones.

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